This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 – 28 (Canceled).

29. (Previously presented) A method of preparing an oligonucleoside, comprising:

providing a support-bound nucleoside comprising a 5'-hydroxyl group;

coupling an additional nucleoside to said support-bound nucleoside, said additional nucleoside comprising a 5'-hydroxy protecting group and a 3'-functional group capable of linking to said 5'-hydroxyl group; and

removing said 5'-hydroxy protecting group in the presence of dichloroacetic acid having a chloral hydrate concentration of less than 15 ppm.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said dichloroacetic acid has a chloral hydrate concentration of less than 10ppm.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said dichloroacetic acid has a chloral hydrate concentration of less than 5 ppm.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said dichloroacetic has a chloral hydrate concentration of less than 1 ppm.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising taking a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum of said dichloroacetic acid and integrating a nuclear magnetic resonance peak associated with a CH proton of chloral hydrate.

34. (Previously presented) A method of removing a 5'-hydroxyl protecting group during an oligonucleoside synthesis, comprising contacting a 5'-hydroxyl protecting group of an oligonucleoside with dichloroacetic acid having a chloral hydrate concentration of less than 15 ppm

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising determining whether a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum of said dichloroacetic acid includes a nuclear magnetic resonance peak associated with a CH proton of chloral hydrate.

36. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

testing dichloroacetic acid for the presence of chloral hydrate;

determining the chloral hydrate concentration in said dichloroacetic acid is less than 15 ppm; and

contacting a 5'-hydroxy protecting group of an oligonucleoside with said dichloroacetic acid under conditions effective to remove said protecting group.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising

coupling a nucleoside to said 5'-hydroxy protecting group, said nucleoside comprising a 3'-functional group capable of linking to said 5'-hydroxyl group.

38. (New) A solvent that comprises dichloroacetic acid in an amount of at least 3% by volume and is substantially free of chloral hydrate.

39. (New) The solvent of claim 38, wherein the dichloroacetic acid contains less than 15 ppm chloral hydrate.

40. (New) The solvent of claim 38, wherein the dichloroacetic acid contains less than 10 ppm chloral hydrate.

41. (New) The solvent of claim 38, wherein the dichloroacetic acid contains less than 1 ppm chloral hydrate.

42. (New) A solvent that comprises dichloroacetic acid in an amount of at least 10% by volume and is substantially free of chloral hydrate.

43. (New) The solvent of claim 39, wherein the dichloroacetic acid contains less than 15 ppm chloral hydrate.

44. (New) The solvent of claim 39, wherein the dichloroacetic acid contains less than 10 ppm chloral hydrate.

45. (New) The solvent of claim 39, wherein the dichloroacetic acid contains less than 1 ppm chloral hydrate.